HAUNT

Image

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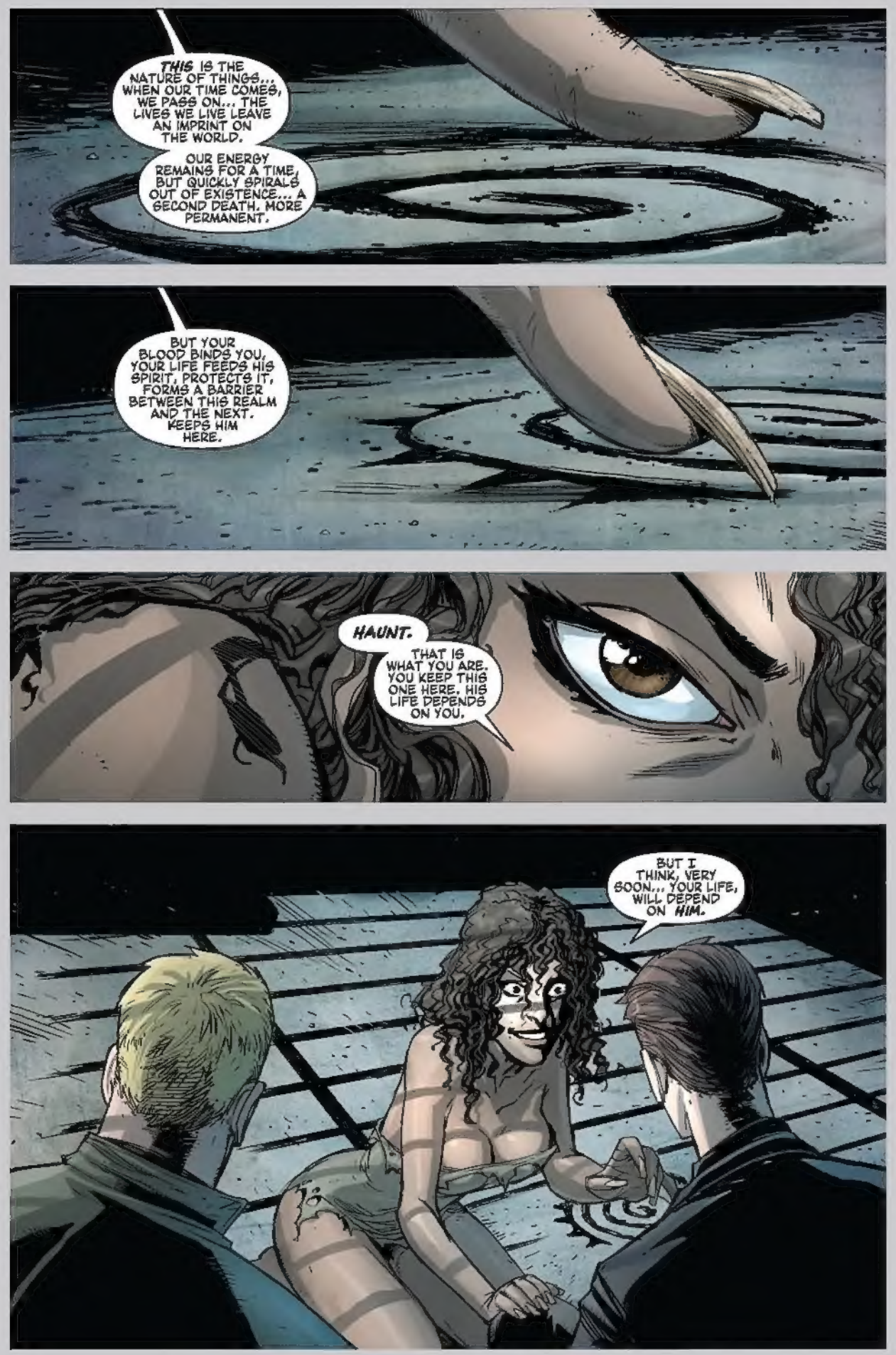
DON'T PANIC. JUST TELL THEM YOU NEED HELP-- THAT YOU CAME HERE FOR HELP...
BUT DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES.
UH...
PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO KILL ME! I NEED--!
NO SUDDEN--!
THOK
...MOVES.
DAMN IT, DANIEL.

UNGH...
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE DART?
WHAT? NO.
THERE WAS A DART.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES...
THEY PARKED US IN HERE UNTIL YOU WOKE UP. PROBABLY COME GET US—YOU SOON.
UH... WHO ARE THEY?
THEY'RE HOMELESS BOLIVIANS AS FAR AS I CAN TELL. THEY WERE THE SUBJECTS OF DOCTOR SHILLINGER'S EXPERIMENTS. REMEMBER THE MISSION I TOLD YOU ABOUT SHORTLY BEFORE I DIED?
I GUESS THEY'RE KEEPING THEM HERE IN HQ UNTIL THEY KNOW IF THEY'RE OKAY... THESE ARE THE LEAST AFFECTED OF THE BUNCH. MUST BE KEEPING THE WORST SUBJECTS SOMEWHERE ELSE—HOPEFULLY TRYING TO HELP THEM.

UH... ARE THEY... DANGEROUS?
SHE'S STARING AT ME.
UM... HI.
HAUNT.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?!
UH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I KNOW YOU, I CAN SEE HIM... THE ONE TRULY NOT HERE. THE ONE WHO SAVED ME AND THE REST.
HE HAS PASSED INTO THE NEXT REALM BUT HE HAS NOT LEFT US. HE REMAINS WITH YOU.
BOUND, THE TWO OF YOU ARE. CONNECTED BY BLOOD, YOUR TWO SOULS INTERTWINED.
TWO LIVES MIXING INTO ONE.
YOU CAN... SEE HIM?
SPUTT
I SEE THE HOLLOW SPACE WHERE A MAN WAS, A SPIRIT NOT MEANT TO BE HERE, BENDING ALL THAT IS TO REMAIN HERE.
I SEE AN UNNATURAL BEING TETHERED TO A REALM HE SHOULD HAVE LEFT BEHIND...


THIS IS THE NATURE OF THINGS... WHEN OUR TIME COMES, WE PASS ON... THE LIVES WE LIVE LEAVE AN IMPRINT ON THE WORLD.
OUR ENERGY REMAINS FOR A TIME, BUT QUICKLY SPIRALS OUT OF EXISTENCE... A SECOND DEATH. MORE PERMANENT.
BUT YOUR BLOOD BINDS YOU, YOUR LIFE FEEDS HIS SPIRIT, PROTECTS IT, FORMS A BARRIER BETWEEN THIS REALM AND THE NEXT. KEEPS HIM HERE.
HAUNT.
THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE. YOU KEEP THIS ONE HERE. HIS LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU.
BUT I THINK, VERY SOON... YOUR LIFE, WILL DEPEND ON HIM.

THAT WOMAN WAS CREEPY.
THEY'RE LISTENING.
I'M SURE THEY ALREADY KNOW...
DANIEL KILGORE, YOU ARE A PRIEST AT SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL ON FIFTH AVENUE. YOU HAVE BEEN SERVING THERE FOR NEARLY SIX YEARS BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR.
YOU KEEP TO YOURSELF. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
YOU EAT TWO MEALS A DAY, SOMETIMES ONE, NEVER THREE.
YOU SEE THE SAME PROSTITUTE AN AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES A WEEK.
YOU PAY FOR THIS BY STEALING MONEY FROM THE CHURCH.
SHE GIVES YOU A DISCOUNT FOR HEARING HER CONFESSION, WHICH YOU RECENTLY BEGAN MAKING HER DO BEFORE YOUR SESSION BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU MORE...
SO I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU--AND WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THE LAST FEW DAYS OF YOUR LIFE... MAKES LITTLE SENSE.
OUR AGENT, YOUR BROTHER, SAW YOU ON A REGULAR BASIS. WE KEEP TRACK OF PEOPLE OUR AGENTS SEE ON A REGULAR BASIS.
ENOUGH OF THIS.
I WANT ANSWERS!
SLAM

BEFORE WE EVEN GET TO HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS PLACE... YOU RECENTLY EMPLOYED ONE OF OUR CLEANERS...
PLEASE EXPLAIN TO US HOW IT IS THAT YOU KNEW HOW TO CONTACT HIM AND EXACTLY WHOSE BODIES YOU HAD HIM DISPOSE OF?
WELL, UM...
...
JUST TELL THEM.
TELL THEM EVERYTHING.
OKAY, WELL... KURT WAS KILLED BY SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THAT DOCTOR SHILLINGER GUY'S NOTEBOOK.
THEY THOUGHT HIS WIFE HAD IT, SO THEY WERE GOING TO KILL HER TO GET IT- BUT I WAS STAYING OVER AND... UM...
KURT'S GHOST HELPED ME KILL THEM.
APPARENTLY I'M--OR WE'RE A... "HAUNT" WHICH I'VE JUST LEARNED IS A THING THAT HAPPENS WHERE ONE GUY TETHERS A RELATIVE'S SPIRIT TO HIM, KEEPING HIM FROM GOING TO THE AFTERLIFE... AND SO KURT IS-
WRAMM
DON'T WASTE OUR TIME WITH THIS NONSENSE. SPEND A NIGHT IN OUR BRIG AND LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE READY TO TALK TOMORROW.

SERIOUSLY, I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.
REALLY, I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING SHE WOULD REACT THAT WAY.
TRUTH BE TOLD, YEAH--I KNEW BETH WAS A BIT OF A HOT HEAD, BUT I NEVER COULD HAVE GUESSED SHE'D DECK YOU LIKE THAT.
SORRY--REALLY.
AND THIS WILL BE FINE--DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS.
SO THAT'S AGENT KILGORE'S BROTHER?
WEIRD.
DID THEY EVER FIND OUT HOW HE GOT IN HERE?
WORD IS, HE'S WORKING FOR THE OTHER SIDE--ONE OF THEM, AT LEAST.
I DON'T BUY IT. KURT WOULDN'T STAND FOR THAT. HIS BROTHER BEING A BAD GUY. HE LOOKS TOO NICE, ANYWAY.
YEAH, SCOTT--BUT YOU COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN MIRAGE WENT ROGUE, EITHER.
LIGHTS OUT IN TWENTY.

YOU ARE—
NOT NOW.
DANIEL...
DANIEL... WAKE UP!

DAMN IT, DANIEL!
WAKE UP RIGHT NOW!
AFTER THAT KICKS IN--YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. DON'T MATTER TO ME IF I HAVE TO BREAK YOUR ARMS BEFORE THEN.
AND PLEASE, FOR YOUR SAKE... BE SMARTER THAN YOUR BROTHER WAS.
ANSWER MY DAMN QUESTIONS.
GASP!
ACK! WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU--?!

SPLAKK
ACK!
HOW DID THIS GUY GET IN HERE? JESUS HE'S FREELANCE-- HE'S NOT THE GUY WHO HAD ME KILLED--BUT HE'S THE ONE WHO DID THE DEED
HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN IN HERE?!
HOW SHOULD I KNO--?!
STAY BACK!
WHAT THE--?!
YOU SOME KIND OF SPACEMAN?!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME-- I'VE SEEN WORSE!
SVSSH
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS IF YOU DON'T GET IT TOGETHER! FIGHT THAT SEDATIVE YOU CAN'T PASS OUT RIGHT NOW!
FIGHT IT!
FOCUS-- WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE SHOT AT THIS.
YOU CUT ME--
--NOW IT'S MY TURN!

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SKRAKOOM
OH, JEEZ-- THAT DIDN'T DO IT. THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.
HANG IN THERE DANIEL-- WE HAVE TO END THIS QUICK.
I'M-- I'M--
YOU'RE FADING FAST.
I GODDAMN WARNED YOU! YOU AND YOUR BROTHER-- YOU JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW HOW MANY THINGS I CAN DO WITH THIS KNIFE AND STILL KEEP YOU ALI--
SWOOSH
YEAAAAGH!
ALMOST THERE--
P-P-PLEASE--

HRUK
DON'T-
IT'S OKAY-- WE'RE SAFE NOW. YOU CAN LET GO JUST LET GO..
PLEASE DON'T--
-SHOOT.
THUD

WELL?
WHAT?
ANSWERS, MISTER KILGORE.
WE WANT ANSWERS.
YOU KILLED MULTIPLE ASSAILANTS AT YOUR BROTHER'S APARTMENT. YOU KNEW TO CONTACT THE CLEANER. WE NOW KNOW THAT YOUR BOSS, FATHER PEARSON HAS BEEN FOUND, MURDERED. YOU GAINED ACCESS TO THIS FACILITY THROUGH MEANS WE CAN'T EASILY ASCERTAIN.
NOW WE HAVE A FREELANCE INTERROGATOR, WHO ALSO GAINED ACCESS TO HQ THROUGH UNKNOWN MEANS--THAT YOU MURDERED, USING SOME SORT OF BODY SUIT THAT APPEARS TO BE... FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD... MAGIC.
CAN YOU EVEN BEGIN TO EXPLAIN THESE EVENTS?
IT'S KURT.
HIS... GHOST IS WITH ME, HE'S HERE NOW. HE HELPED ME KILL THOSE MEN, HE TOLD ME HOW TO CONTACT THE CLEANER, HE BROUGHT ME HERE.
IT'S ALL HIM.
THAT SUIT... THAT'S HIM.
HOW ELSE COULD I DO THESE THINGS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE PROOF I COULD GIVE YOU.

THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION IS USUALLY THE CORRECT ONE.
VERY WELL.
THAT'S DIRECTOR STANTZ, DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY. HE'S A MAN OF FEW WORDS. HE AND I NEVER REALLY GOT ALONG ALL THAT WELL.
YOU MUST HAVE REALLY SPOOKED HIM, COMING HERE--HE USUALLY DOESN'T BOTHER MUCH WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY MATTERS. USUALLY LETS BETH OR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RHODES HANDLE MOST THINGS.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T CALL HER BETH.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TOSH.
...WHO ISN'T SAYING ANYTHING...
SO... ...DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

NO.
I DON'T ACCEPT THIS. I'VE SEEN STRANGER THINGS THAN YOUR GOO-SUIT--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GO NG TO SIT HERE AND LET YOU TEL.. ME GHOSTS ARE REAL.
IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY.
I NEED PROOF.
I NEED YOU TO PROVE TO ME THAT KURT IS HERE, WITH YOU, ALIVE--OR WHATEVER. HAVE HIM SAY SOMETHING--SOMETHING THAT ONLY I WOULD UNDERSTAND, THAT ONLY HE WOULD KNOW.
TELL HER... AUTUMN LEAVES.
HE SA D "AUTUMN LEAVES."

YOU...
YOU CHEATED ON AMANDA?!
YOU CHEATED ON HER! I COULD SEE IT ON THAT WOMAN'S FACE! YOU HAD SEX WITH THAT WOMAN— DIDN'T YOU?!
DIDN'T YOU?!
MY GOD, KURT— AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE—AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, YOU WEREN'T EVEN FAITHFUL! YOU COULDN'T EVEN DO THAT MUCH?
DANIEL, LISTEN TO ME.
NO!
GODDAMN IT, NO! NOT AFTER THIS! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A WORD YOU HAVE TO SAY!
PLEASE, JUST—

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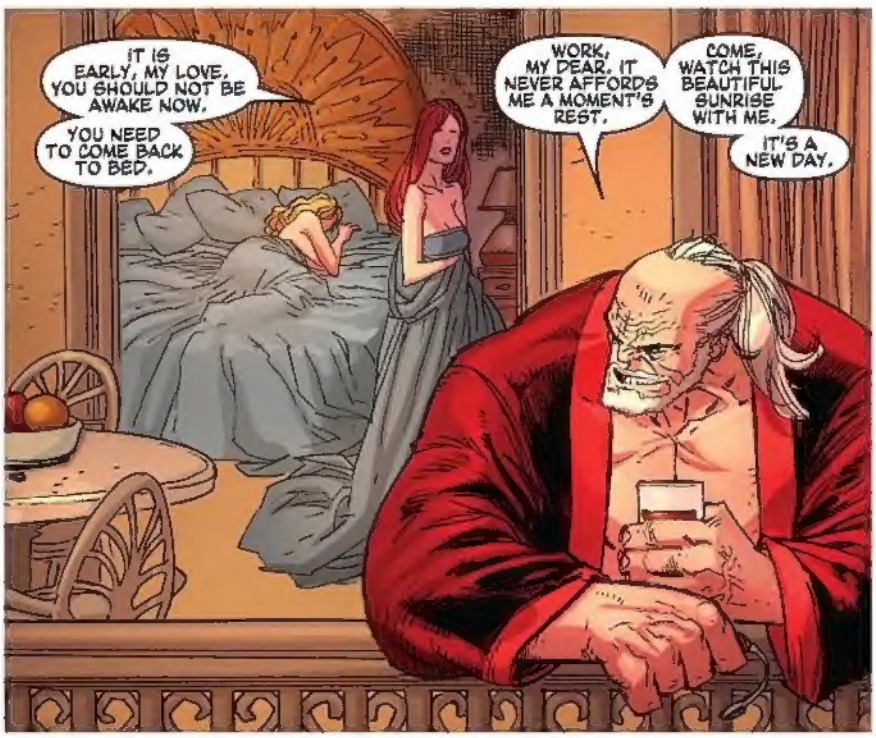
AMANDA WAS SPECIAL! SHE WAS SO--WE WERE--YOU TORE US APART AND--AND YOU WEREN'T EVEN HAPPY?! SHE WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU?!
I LOVED HER!
GOD DAMN IT, KURT!
GOD DAMN IT!
YOU RUINED MY LIFE!
I LOVED HER, DAMN IT! I LOVED HER AND SHE LOVED ME!
YOU COULD HAVE ANY WOMAN YOU WANTED--BUT YOU WANTED HER. AMANDA... MY AMANDA. AND THEN... AND THEN...
WE WERE HAPPY!
WE WERE HAPPY...
WE...

IF HE'S FAKING IT HE'S REALLY GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO SELL IT.
I THINK I BELIEVE HIM.
IS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RHODES IN YET? SHE'S GOING TO WANT TO BE BRIEFED ON THIS SITUATION, AS HEAD OF THE INVESTIGATION OF KILGORE'S MURDER.
SHE'S ON HER WAY.
NO, THEY HAVE HIM IN HOLDING.
YES, I THINK THEY STARTED QUESTIONING HIM WITHOUT ME.
I KNOW, SIR...TRAFFIC. I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE ATTEMPT LAST NIGHT TO RETRIEVE HIM FAILED.
HE'S DEAD. KILGORE KILLED HIM, I'M TOLD.
I DON'T KNOW. SAME AS THE MEN SENT TO THE APARTMENT, I SUPPOSE. THE BROTHER IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.
COBRA REPORTS THAT HE HAS SOME EXTRA-NORMAL ABILITIES. I DON'T KNOW HOW.
I COVERED MY TRACKS. WITH A LITTLE DIGGING THEY'LL FIND A HIDDEN ALGORITHM IN THE SYSTEM THAT IS COPYING PASS CODES AND TRANSMITTING THEM. IT'S UNTRACEABLE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO THEY THINK IT IS, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR HOW THE INTERROGATOR GOT IN LAST NIGHT.
I HAVE TO GO. I'M INSIDE.
THE POINT IS, MY EXPOSURE IS MANAGEABLE.

IT BETTER BE, MISS RHODES.
WITH DOCTOR SHILLINGER DEAD—WE NEED HIS NOTEBOOK OR EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED TOWARD FALLS APART.

DO NOT FAIL ME.
CLICK


IT IS EARLY, MY LOVE. YOU SHOULD NOT BE AWAKE NOW.
YOU NEED TO COME BACK TO BED.
WORK, MY DEAR. IT NEVER AFFORDS ME A MOMENT'S REST.
COME, WATCH THIS BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE WITH ME.
IT'S A NEW DAY.